

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a switch, comprising:  
installing the switch having a plurality of processor elements;  
installing an operating system on each processor element;  
creating a system virtual router on one of the processor elements, wherein creating a system virtual router includes establishing a global object manager on one of the plurality of processor elements; and  
configuring the processor elements from the system virtual router, wherein configuring includes establishing, via the global object manager, a local object manager on each processor element, wherein the local object manager manages objects local to each processor element and transfers messages between objects on the processor element and between processor elements.
2. (Original) An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions thereon, wherein the instructions, when executed in a computer, create a system for executing the method of claim 1.
3. (Withdrawn) A switch management system, comprising:  
an object manager;  
a distributed management layer, wherein the object manager communicates with objects through the distributed management layer, the object manager operable to configure the objects into virtual private networks and virtual routers by creating and deleting objects.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein configuring the processor elements includes creating a customer virtual router from ~~multiple~~ selected processor elements on multiple blades, wherein creating a customer virtual router includes:  
establishing a virtual private network associated with a customer;  
adding the virtual router to a list of virtual routers associated with the virtual private network; and

creating an object associated with the customer virtual router on each of the selected processor elements.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein configuring the processor elements includes:

adding new processor elements; and

using a distributed management layer to group processor elements into at least one virtual router, wherein grouping includes assigning a group identifier to selected objects in each processor element such that the selected objects can be addressed as a group.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein using a distributed management layer to group processor elements into at least one virtual router includes:

requesting a the global object manager to create a virtual router from a group of processor elements;

requesting a one or more of the local object managers to group the processor elements;

activating processor elements of the group; and

generating a status message that the virtual router is created.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein activating processor elements of the group includes changing a state machine for a processor element to an active state.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein using distributed management layer to group processor elements includes adding object identifiers to a global object database.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein creating a virtual router includes sending a request to create a customer virtual router.

10. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 3, wherein the object manager includes:

an object manager controller in communication with a configuration manager, the object manager controller to manage configurations of virtual routers and virtual private networks;

a global object manager to manage global objects; and  
a local object manager to manage local objects, to route control information between address spaces based on locations of the local objects and to communicate with the local objects.

11. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 10, wherein the local object manager includes a state machine for each local object, the local object manager to communicate a state change to a local object to initiate an action associated with the state change.

12. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 10, wherein the distributed management layer includes a distributed message layer, the distributed message layer including channels for data and control messages.

13. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12, wherein the distributed message layer includes a predefined channel for communications between the global object manager and the local object manager.

14. (Withdrawn) A switch management system, comprising:  
an object manager;  
a distributed management layer, wherein the object manager communicates with objects through the distributed management layer; and  
system blades including at least one control blade, wherein the objects are located on blades.

15. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 14, wherein the at least one control blade includes a plurality of control blades including a master control blade, the master control blade including management information, and at least one standby control blade, the at least one standby control blade including a replica of the management information.

16. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 14, wherein the type of blades are selected from a set including control blades, access blades, trunk blades and processor blades.

17. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:
- configuring a switch management system;
  - managing the system with an object manager over a distributed management layer;
  - tracking management and configuration data with an object manager global database residing on a master control blade; and
  - storing a replica of the object manager global database on a standby control blade.

18-20 (Canceled)